

Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice). Under the scheme, incentives are being provided to the farmers for the use of critical inputs like seeds of high yielding varieties/hybrids, improved farm implements including power tillers & sprinklers, soil ameliorants, green manure seeds etc. to motivate them to adopt improved crop production technologies. Besides, for effective transfer of newly developed technology, incentives are also being provided for organisation of field demonstrations and farmers trainings. These incentives are primarily focused on increasing productivity in low productivity areas.

The Government of India have under their consideration, a programme for ground water exploitation in Eastern region of the country during IX Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Area under Cultivation

3178. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the agricultural land out of the total land in the country;

(b) the percentage of total agricultural land under cultivation in the country;

(c) whether the percentage of the agricultural land under cultivation is quite low, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to bring more agricultural land under cultivation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) As per land use statistics, 1994-96 (latest), the percentage of cultivated land (net area sown and current fallows) to the total reporting area in the country is 51.2%. The net sown area constitute 46.8% of the total reporting

area. This percentage is significantly higher than most of the countries.

(d) and (e) The Government is implementing the following schemes to bring more agricultural land under cultivation:

- (i) Centrally sponsored scheme for Reclamation of Alkali (Usar) Soils;
- (ii) Uttar Pradesh Sodic Land Reclamation Project with World Bank Assistance; and
- (iii) EEC assisted project for Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

[English]

Protection of Panthers

3179. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding population of the Panthers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the date on which the last survey was conducted;

(c) whether the Government have taken measures to protect the Panthers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey of Panthers on All India basis is done once in 4-5 years. The last complete survey was done in 1993 and the details are given in the Statement-I attached.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The measures taken by the Government to protect the Panthers are given in Statement-II attached.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement I*Population of Panthers in the Country*

S. No.	Name of the State	Leopards		
		1984	1989	1993
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tamil Nadu	0189	0119	0138
2.	Maharashtra	0380	0580	0417
3.	Kerala	—	0027	0016
4.	West Bengal	0112	0108	0108
5.	Orissa	0266	0279	0378
6.	Karnataka	0238	0283	0455
7.	Bihar	0113	0134	0203
8.	Assam	0123	0123	0246
9.	Rajasthan	0270	0461	0475
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1322	2036	1700
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0880	1095	0711
12.	Andhra Pradesh	—	0301	0152
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0199	0199	0821
14.	Manipur	0007	—	—
15.	Tripura	0027	0037	0018
16.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	0010	0015
17.	Mizoram	0006	0038	0049

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Nagaland	0072	0072	—
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	0021	0121	0098
20.	Sikkim	—	0001	—
21.	Gujarat	0498	0702	0772
22.	Haryana	0010	0019	0025
23.	Goa, Daman & Diu	0010	0018	0031
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	0004	0004	—
Total :		4744	6763	6828

Statement II

1. Panther is a Schedule-I animal under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV has been banned by law.
2. A network of 447 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 84 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. kms. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government under various Centrally sponsored plan schemes for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Project Tiger.
3. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
4. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
5. Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" for protection of wildlife including panthers.
6. Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

7. Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife reaches them.

8. Inter-departmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995 and 1996.

[Translation]

Strength of BSF

3180. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Border Security Force in the bordering States of Gujarat and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the shortage is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.